

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the pending application is respectfully requested on the basis of the following particulars:

Rejection of claims 1-3 and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-3 and 14-16 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by Bodmer (U.S. 6,783,346). This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 is amended to more clearly describe the present invention, by pointing out that at least one first injection molding piece *and* at least one second injection molding piece is formed each time the *first or second series* of mold parts works in conjunction with the third series of mold parts.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention differs from Bodmer because Bodmer does not function such that at least one first injection molding piece *and* at least one second injection molding piece is formed each time the *first or second series* of mold parts works in conjunction with the third series of mold parts.

A mold according to the present invention comprises at least six mold parts, arranged in three series of mold parts. Referring to Fig. 1 of the present application, these are seen as first series 6, second series 9, and third series 12.

The first and second series are identical, and each consists of at least two mold parts 7-8, and 10-11. The first mold part 7 of the first series 6 contains a number of identical half-cavities that forms half of the wall of a first mold impression 18, while the second mold part 8 of the first series 6 of mold parts contains a number of identical half-cavities that form half of the wall of a second mold impression 19. The mold parts of the second series 9 are identical to the mold parts of the first series 6.

The third series 12 of mold parts consists of mold parts 13 and 14. The half-cavities in the first mold part 13 of the third series 12 form half of the wall of the first

mold impression 18, and the half cavities in the second mold part 14 of the third series 12 form half of the wall of the second mold impression 19.

Thus, the half-cavities of the first mold part 13 of the third series 12 work alternately in conjunction with the half-cavities of the first mold part 7 of the first series of mold parts and with the half cavities in the first mold part 10 in the second series 9 of mold parts. Also, the half-cavities of the second mold part 14 of the third series 12 work alternately in conjunction with the half-cavities of the second mold part 8 of the first series 6 and with the half-cavities in the second mold part 11 of the second series 9.

Since each of the first, second, and third series 6, 9, 12 have half-cavities corresponding to both the first mold impression 18 and the second mold impression 19, each time the third series works in conjunction with *either* the first or second series mold pieces are formed corresponding to both the first and second mold impressions 18 and 19.

The mold described in Bodmer comprises at least first and second outer mold parts (half-molds 3 and 6) and two central series 10-11 of mold parts. As can be seen in Bodmer's figures 1 and 2, the outer mold parts 3 and 6 each comprise only a single type of half-cavity. In particular, half-cavities 20 of a first type are formed in the first outer mold part 3, and half-cavities of a second type are formed in the second outer mold part 6.

While Bodmer does not explicitly state that each of the first and second mold parts (half-molds 3 and 6) comprise only a single type of half-cavity, this is implicitly understood by the statement that "the individual material or color components are not manufactured in one plane [...], but rather manufactured in a tool with several levels (parting planes)" (*Bodmer*; col. 2, lines 31-35). This statement clearly indicates that the mold according to Bodmer is designed to manufacture a first molding piece in a first parting plane (between the first outer mold part and one of the central series of mold parts), and to manufacture a second mold piece in the second parting plane (between the second outer mold part and the another of the central series of mold parts).

The central series of mold parts 10, 11 each consist of two mold parts that are each provided with one type of half-cavities 21.1 or 21.2. It follows that these central series of

mold parts are provided with twice the number of cavities than the outer mold parts 3 and 6. In other words, "the half-molds 3, 6, 10, 11 each comprise four rows of cavities 20, 21, wherein the cavities 21.1, 21.2 of the third and of the fourth half-molds 10, 11 are *each implemented as double*" (Bodmer; col. 6, lines 40-45)(emphasis added).

It is clear that the first type of half-cavities 21.1 in the central series of mold parts work in conjunction with the half-cavities 20 in the first outer mold part to create a first mold impression. The second type of half-cavities 21.2 in the central series of mold parts work in conjunction with the half-cavities 20 in the second outer mold part to create a second mold impression. Thus, it cannot be said that each time the first outer mold part works in conjunction with the third (central) mold part at least one first injection molding piece and at least one second injection molding piece are formed thereby, nor can it be said that that each time the second outer mold part works in conjunction with the third (central) mold part at least one first injection molding piece and at least one second injection molding piece are formed thereby.

One can only define three series of mold parts, each having two types of half-cavities, in the mold according to Bodmer by making the assumption that both the first and second outer mold parts together form a third series of mold parts. By this assumption, three different series of mold parts each having two types of half-cavities may be defined. However, by this assumption, the mold does not allow first and second mold parts to work *alternately in conjunction with the third series* of mold parts, as is claimed in the present invention.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that Bodmer does not anticipate the present invention, because Bodmer fails to teach or suggest each and every element set forth in the claims. Therefore, claims 1-16 are allowable over the cited reference, and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Rejection of claims 4-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4 and 6 presently stand rejected as being unpatentable over Bodmer in view of Boucherie (U.S. 6,379,139) (hereafter Boucherie '139). Claim 5 is rejected as being

unpatentable over Bodmer and Boucherie '139 in view of Boucherie (EP 678 368) (hereafter Boucherie '368), and claims 7-11 are rejected as being unpatentable over Bodmer in view of Boucherie. These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Each of claims 4-11 and 13 depend from claim 1. As discusses above, claim 1 is allowable over Bodmer because Bodmer fails to disclose or suggest each and every element set forth in claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that neither Boucherie '139 nor Boucherie '368 supplement the deficiencies of Bodmer with respect to the elements set forth in claim 1, and therefore neither Bodmer in view of Boucherie '139 nor Bodmer in view of Boucherie '368 form a prima facie case of obviousness of any of the dependent claims 4-11. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-11 are allowable over the cited references, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


In view of the amendments to the claims, and in further view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that claims 1-16 be allowed and the application be passed to issue.

If any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephone or facsimile communication with the Applicant's attorney, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the numbers shown.

Respectfully submitted,

BACON & THOMAS, PLLC
625 Slaters Lane, Fourth Floor
Alexandria, Virginia 22314-1176
Phone: (703) 683-0500

Date: October 10, 2006


JOHN R. SCHAEFER
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 47,921